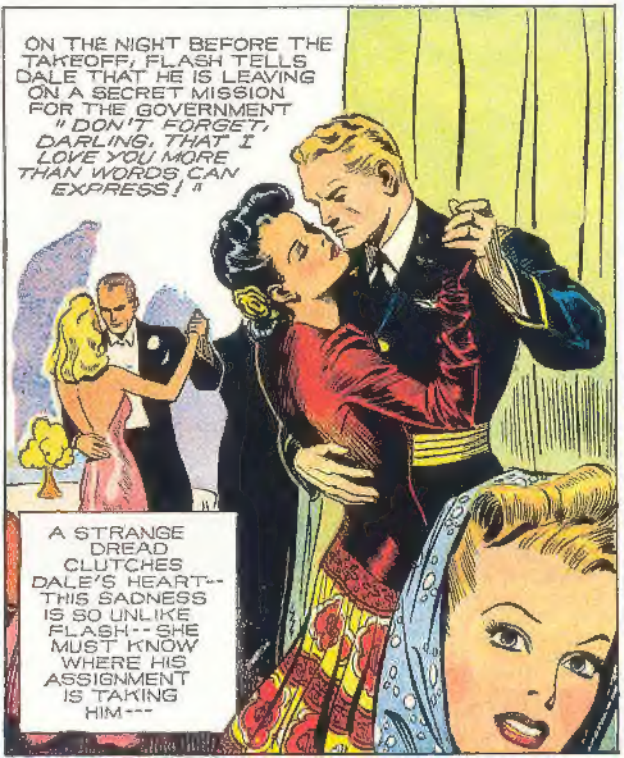
COLONEL FLASH GORDON IS CALLED TO DEFENSE STRATEGY HEADQUARTERS. THE GENERAL IN CHARGE SPEAKS: "YOUR RAY-BEAMS WOULD MAKE FREEDOM FOREVER SAFE AGAINST ATTACK, BUT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH RADIUM ON EARTH TO MANUFACTURE THEM."
"THERE IS BUT ONE SOLUTION," SAYS FLASH, "I'LL ROCKET TO THE PLANET, MONGO, FOR A NEW SUPPLY!"

FLASH ENLISTS ZARKOV'S AID: "DESIGNING THE SHIP IS EASY," SAYS THE GREAT SCIENTIST. "BUT OUR ROCKET FUEL IS SO SHORT THAT WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO REACH MONGO!"
"WE'LL RISK THAT," SAYS FLASH, "BUT REMEMBER--DALE MUST NEVER KNOW!"

FLASH AND ZARKOV WATCH THEIR GREAT SHIP GROW--BUT FLASH'S HEART IS HEAVY--THIS DANGEROUS MISSION MAY PART HIM AND DALE FOREVER!


ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THE TAKEOFF, FLASH TELLS DALE THAT HE IS LEAVING ON A SECRET MISSION FOR THE GOVERNMENT "DON'T FORGET, DARLING, THAT I LOVE YOU MORE THAN WORDS CAN EXPRESS!"
A STRANGE DREAD CLUTCHES DALE'S HEART--THIS SADNESS IS SO UNLIKE FLASH--SHE MUST KNOW WHERE HIS ASSIGNMENT IS TAKING HIM---

IT IS LATE WHEN FLASH LEAVES HER, BUT DALE RUSHES TO ZARKOV'S APARTMENT: "I'M SORRY, DALE, BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE WE'RE GOING--IT'S A MILITARY SECRET," SAYS ZARKOV, "EXCUSE ME A MINUTE---THE 'PHONE IS RINGING---"
1-4-42.
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WHILE ZARKOV ANSWERS THE 'PHONE, DALE WANDERS INTO HIS STUDY. HER EYE FALLS ON A LETTER. IT IS DATED THAT AFTERNOON AND READS: "ROCKET READY--WILL MEET YOU AT AIRPORT AT FIVE A.M." (SIGNED) FLASH.
NEXT WEEK:
A FRIEND IN NEED

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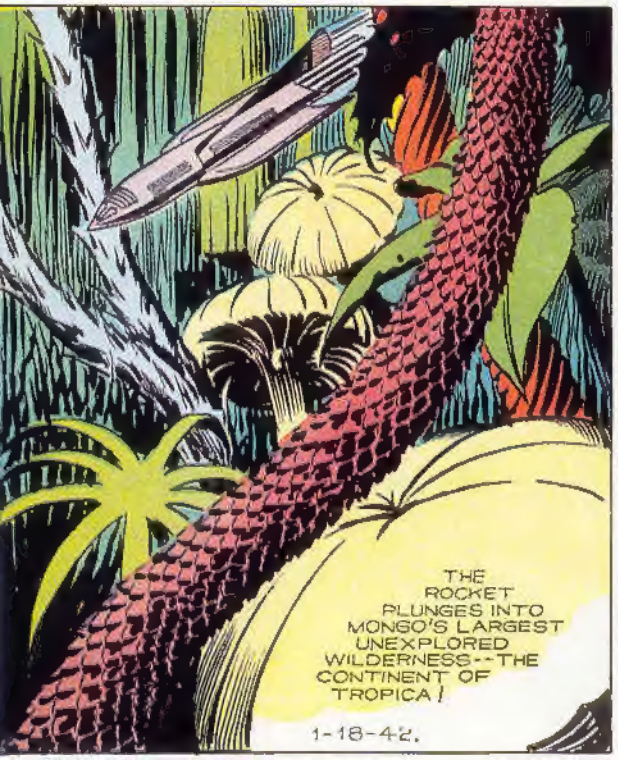

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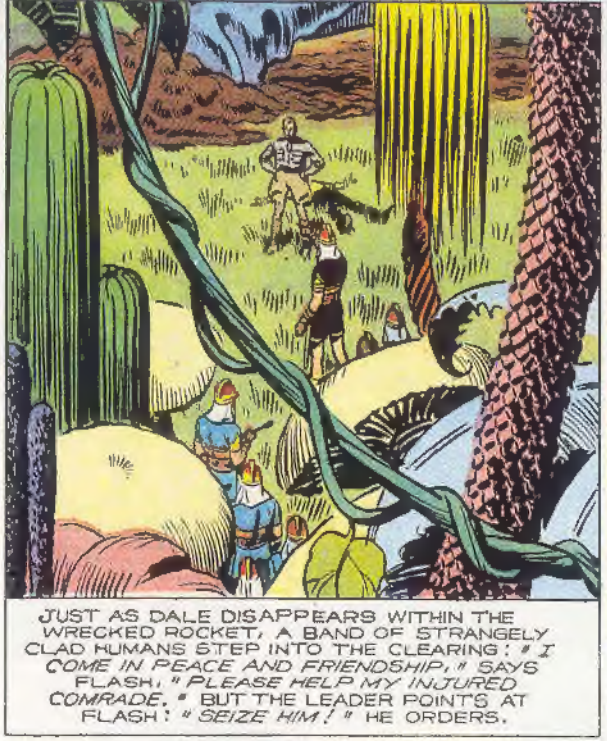
FLASH'S ROCKET, BOUND FOR THE RADIUM MINES OF THE PLANET, MONGO, CRASHES IN THE UNEXPLORED WILDS OF TROPICA. AS FLASH AND DALE WORK OVER THE INJURED ZARKOV, THEY HEAR A DISTANT SOUND: "HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT THAT IS, DALE," SAYS FLASH, "QUICK--GET OUR PISTOLS FROM THE SHIP!"


JUST AS DALE DISAPPEARS WITHIN THE WRECKED ROCKET, A BAND OF STRANGELY CLAD HUMANS STEP INTO THE CLEARING: "I COME IN PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP," SAYS FLASH, "PLEASE HELP MY INJURED COMRADE." BUT THE LEADER POINTS AT FLASH: "SEIZE HIM!" HE ORDERS.

DALE SNATCHES UP FLASH'S TWO RAY-PISTOLS AND LEAPS FROM THE SPACE SHIP---AND INTO THE ARMS OF A WAITING TROPICAN!

HEARING DALE'S MUFFLED SCREAM FOR HELP, FLASH KNIFES THROUGH THE OPPOSING TROPICANS LIKE THE GREAT, SMASHING FULL-BACK HE WAS IN HIS COLLEGE DAYS!

A CLEAR, RINGING COMMAND FROM THE JUNGLE'S EDGE FREEZES THE STRUGGLING TROPICANS TO ATTENTION--FLASH IS HELD SPELL-BOUND BY A VISION OF RED-HAIRED BEAUTY---
1-25-42.
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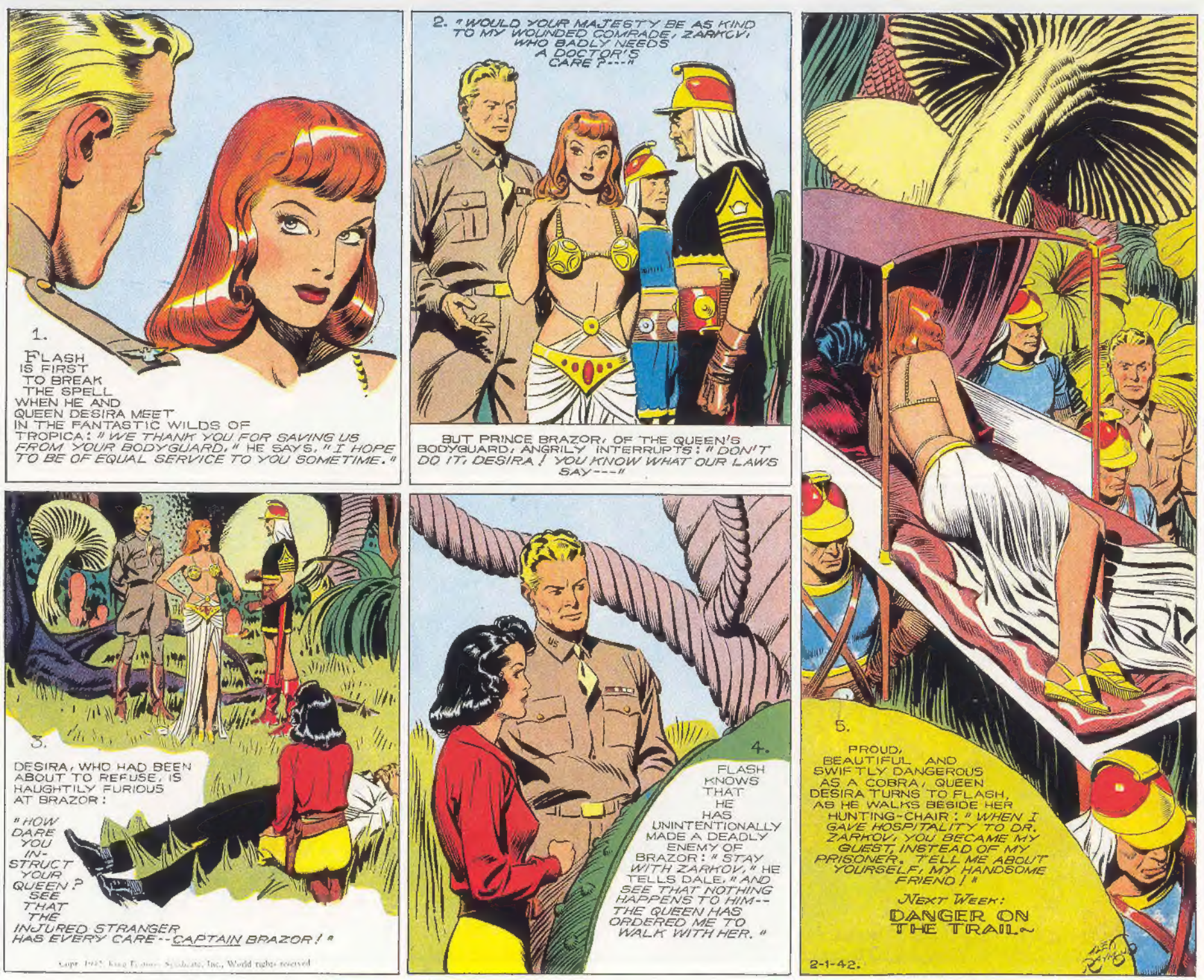
FLASH GORDON HERO OF A THOUSAND ADVENTURES--AND DESIRA, THE IMPERIOUS QUEEN OF TROPICA--STAND FACE TO FACE, MEASURING EACH OTHER. FOR SOMEHOW, IN THAT FIRST MOMENT, THEY BOTH REALIZE THAT THIS MEETING WILL CHANGE THEIR DESTINIES.
NEXT WEEK: FATE'S TRAP


1.
FLASH IS FIRST TO BREAK THE SPELL WHEN HE AND QUEEN DESIRA MEET IN THE FANTASTIC WILDS OF TROPICA: "WE THANK YOU FOR SAVING US FROM YOUR BODYGUARD," HE SAYS. "I HOPE TO BE OF EQUAL SERVICE TO YOU SOMETIME."
2. "WOULD YOUR MAJESTY BE AS KIND TO MY WOUNDED COMRADE, ZARKOV, WHO BADLY NEEDS A DOCTOR'S CARE?---"
BUT PRINCE BRAZOR, OF THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD, ANGRILY INTERRUPTS: "DON'T DO IT, DESIRA! YOU KNOW WHAT OUR LAWS SAY---"
3.
DESIRA, WHO HAD BEEN ABOUT TO REFUSE, IS HAUGHTILY FURIOUS AT BRAZOR:
"HOW DARE YOU IN-STRUCT YOUR QUEEN? SEE THAT THE INJURED STRANGER HAS EVERY CARE--CAPTAIN BRAZOR!"
4.
FLASH KNOWS THAT HE HAS UNINTENTIONALLY MADE A DEADLY ENEMY OF BRAZOR: "STAY WITH ZARKOV," HE TELLS DALE, "AND SEE THAT NOTHING HAPPENS TO HIM--THE QUEEN HAS ORDERED ME TO WALK WITH HER."
5.
PROUD, BEAUTIFUL AND SWIFTLY DANGEROUS AS A COBRA, QUEEN DESIRA TURNS TO FLASH, AS HE WALKS BESIDE HER HUNTING-CHAIR: "WHEN I GAVE HOSPITALITY TO DR. ZARKOV, YOU BECAME MY GUEST, INSTEAD OF MY PRISONER. TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, MY HANDSOME FRIEND!"
NEXT WEEK:
DANGER ON THE TRAIL~
2-1-42.

1. DALE KNOWS THAT, FOR THE SAKE OF THE INJURED ZARKOV, FLASH MUST BE NICE TO THE HAUGHTY, FIERY QUEEN OF TROPICA, BUT SHE CAN'T HELP FEELING A TWINGE OF JEALOUSY: "HE DOESN'T NEED TO ACT AS IF HE WERE ENJOYING HIMSELF SO MUCH!"
2. A FEROCIOUS TREE DRAGON WAITS IN THE PATH OF THE HUNTING PARTY--IT CROUCHES FOR A LEAP--
3. BRAZOR, CAPTAIN OF DESIRA'S BODYGUARD, SEES THE DANGER TO HIS QUEEN, BUT DOES NOT GIVE THE ALARM--
--THIS IS HIS CHANCE FOR VENGEANCE AGAINST DESIRA, WHO PUBLICLY HUMILIATED HIM AND DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS RANK OF PRINCE OF TROPICA.
4. AS THE TREE DRAGON LEAPS FROM ITS PERCH, FLASH'S KEEN SENSES WARN HIM--HE CHARGES AGAINST THE QUEEN'S HUNTING-CHAIR, FLINGING HER OUT OF THE DRAGON'S PATH--
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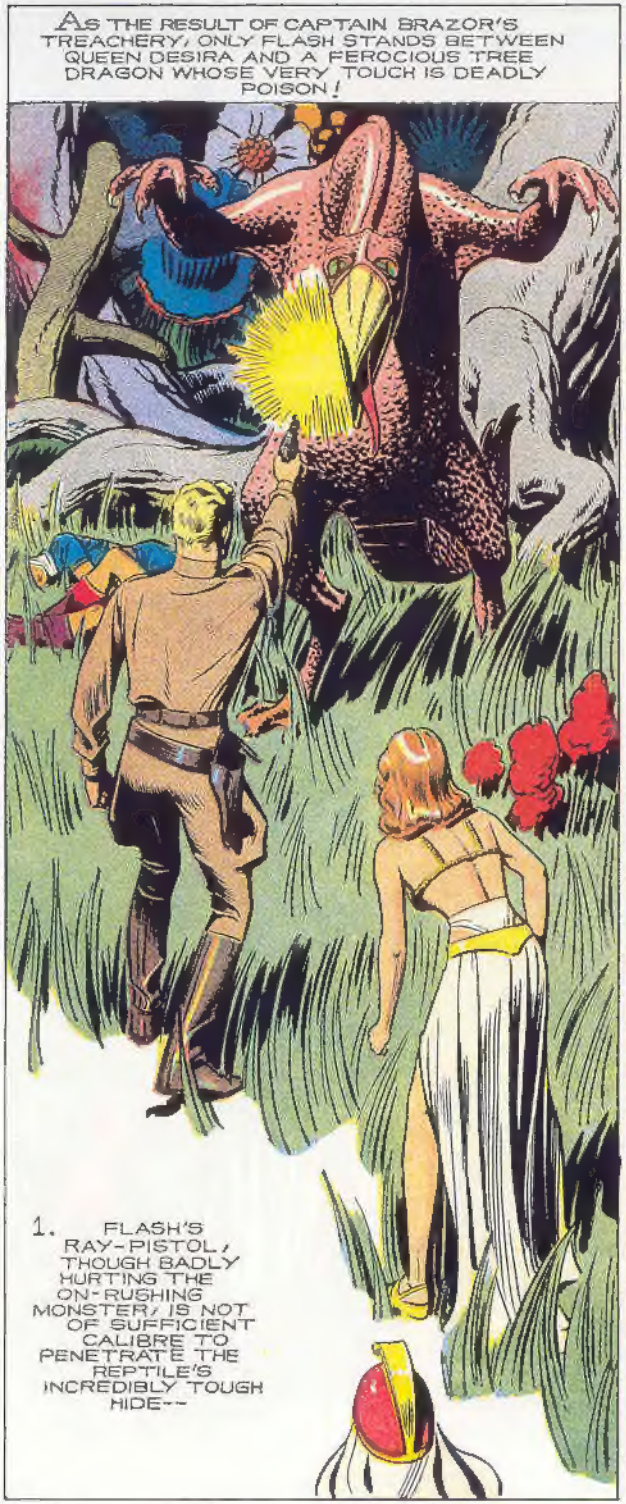
5. FLASH'S RAY-BLASTS SLOW DOWN THE DRAGON'S CHARGE, BUT CANNOT STOP THE REPTILE'S DEADLY ADVANCE. FLASH GRABS THE QUEEN AND RETREATS, BLAZING AWAY, IN SEARCH OF A VULNERABLE POINT.
• NEXT WEEK •
DEADLIER THAN A DRAGON
2-8-42.



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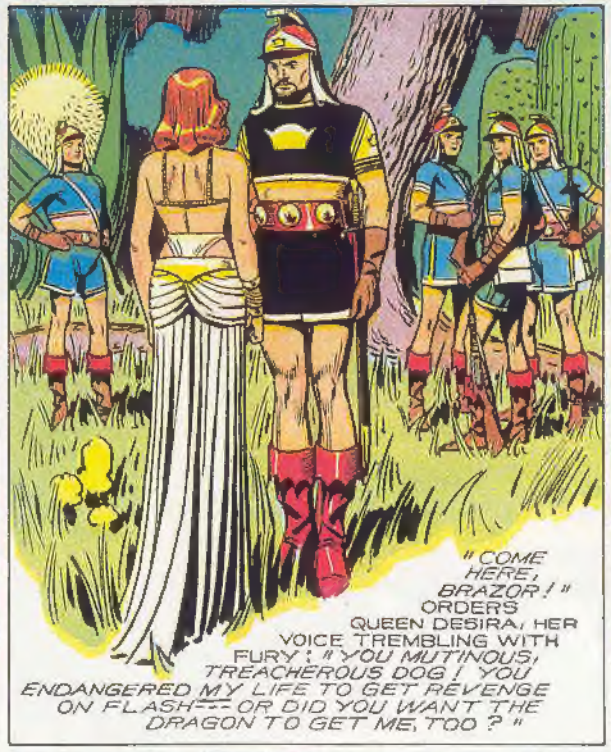
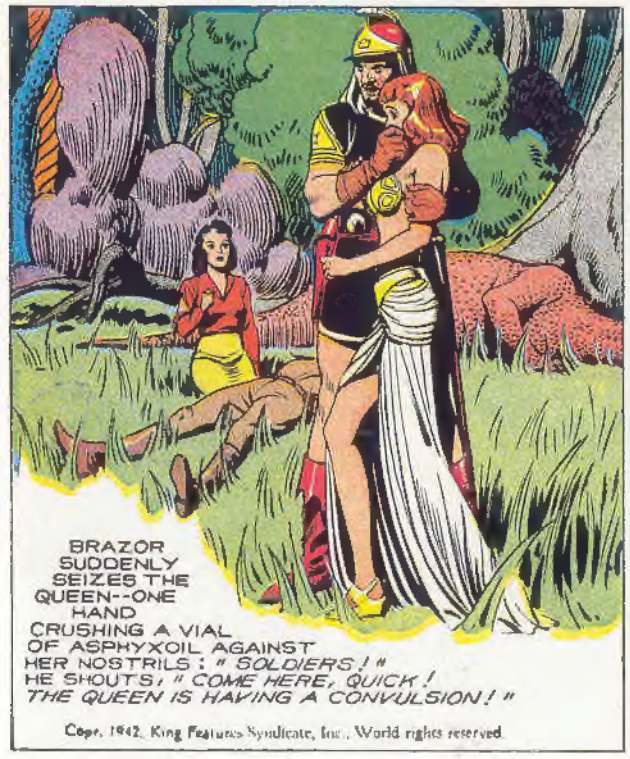
DALE RISKS DEATH WITHOUT HESITATION, AS SHE TRIES TO SUCK THE TREE DRAGON'S POISON FROM FLASH'S WOUND. BUT THE DEADLY VENOM HAS ALREADY BEGUN ITS WORK, AS A CREEPING PARALYSIS SPREADS OVER HIS POWERFUL BODY.


"COME HERE, BRAZOR!" ORDERS QUEEN DESIRA, HER VOICE TREMBLING WITH FURY: "YOU MUTINOUS, TREACHEROUS DOG! YOU ENDANGERED MY LIFE TO GET REVENGE ON FLASH--- OR DID YOU WANT THE DRAGON TO GET ME, TOO?"

DESIRA SUSPECTS THE TRUTH, BRAZOR KNOWS THAT HE HAS GONE TOO FAR TO STOP NOW--HIS HAND STEALS TO HIS POCKET---
"MY DEAR COUSIN, I WAS SO PARALYZED WITH FRIGHT AT YOUR DANGER---" HE SAYS SMOOTHLY, STEPPING CLOSER---


BRAZOR SUDDENLY SEIZES THE QUEEN--ONE HAND CRUSHING A VIAL OF ASPHYXOIL AGAINST HER NOSTRILS: "SOLDIERS!" HE SHOUTS, "COME HERE, QUICK! THE QUEEN IS HAVING A CONVULSION!"
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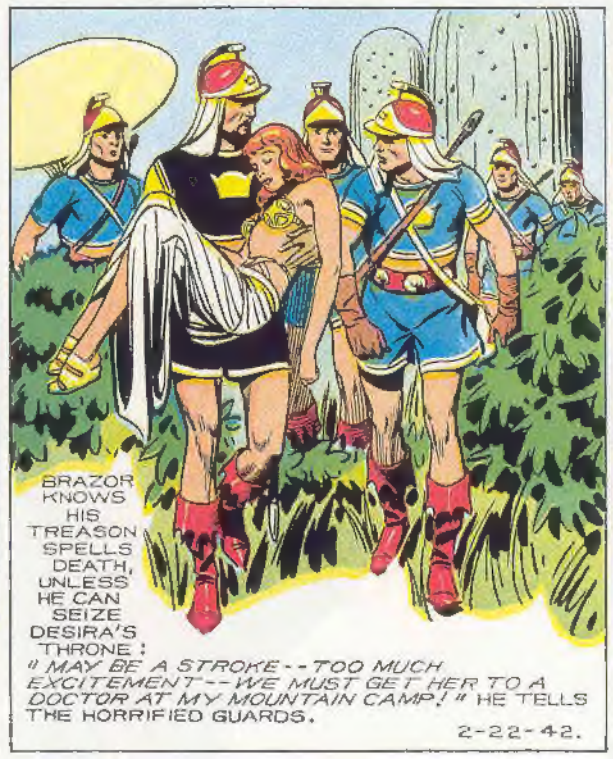
BRAZOR KNOWS HIS TREASON SPELLS DEATH, UNLESS HE CAN SEIZE DESIRA'S THRONE:
"MAY BE A STROKE--TOO MUCH EXCITEMENT--WE MUST GET HER TO A DOCTOR AT MY MOUNTAIN CAMP!" HE TELLS THE HORRIFIED GUARDS.
2-22-42.

AS PREPARATIONS ARE MADE TO CARRY FLASH, DESIRA AND ZARKOV TO BRAZOR'S CAMP, DALE CONFRONTS BRAZOR, THE CRUSHED VIAL IN HER HAND---
"I SAW YOU POISON YOUR QUEEN!" SHE WARNS IN A LOW VOICE--"UNLESS YOU TAKE CARE OF FLASH--AND ZARKOV, TOO--I'LL TELL HER BODYGUARD EVERYTHING!"
NEXT WEEK:
IN THE TRAITOR'S CAMP

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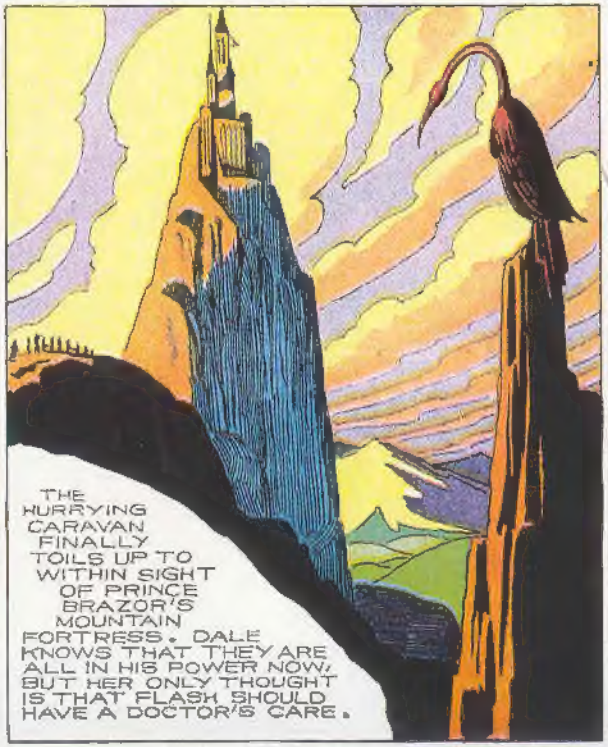

IN PRINCE BRAZOR'S CASTLE, GUARDED BY HIS PRIVATE TROOPS, DALE FEARS SHE HAS MADE A FATAL MISTAKE BY KEEPING QUIET ABOUT HIS TREACHERY TO THE QUEEN. WILL BRAZOR KEEP HIS PROMISE TO CURE FLASH, OR WILL HE DISPOSE OF THEM ALL AS DANGEROUS WITNESSES?

A SUDDEN COMMOTION AT THE DOOR--AND IN COMES A PORTABLE HEALO-RAY OUTFIT: "I'M DOCTOR KRULO. WHICH PATIENT NEEDS THE ANTI-VENOM TREATMENT?" BUT DALE'S RELIEF IS SO GREAT THAT SHE CANNOT SPEAK. SHE ONLY POINTS TO FLASH

DR. KRULO IS COLD, BUT EFFICIENT: "YOUR FIRST AID AND MY ANTI-VENOM RAY SAVED HIM--HE'LL LIVE!" "THANK HEAVEN!!" SOBS DALE.

SPURNING DALE'S THANKS, DR. KRULO TURNS TO THE INJURED ZARKOV. "WILL QUEEN DESIRA RECOVER FROM THE TREE-DRAGON'S ATTACK?" DALE ASKS CAUTIOUSLY
3-8-42

BUT BEFORE DR KRULO CAN ANSWER, BRAZOR'S SMOOTH, COLD VOICE INTERRUPTS FROM THE DOORWAY: "DR. KRULO KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO DESIRA, DALE. HE KNOWS HIS BUSINESS--AND HE MINDS HIS BUSINESS!"
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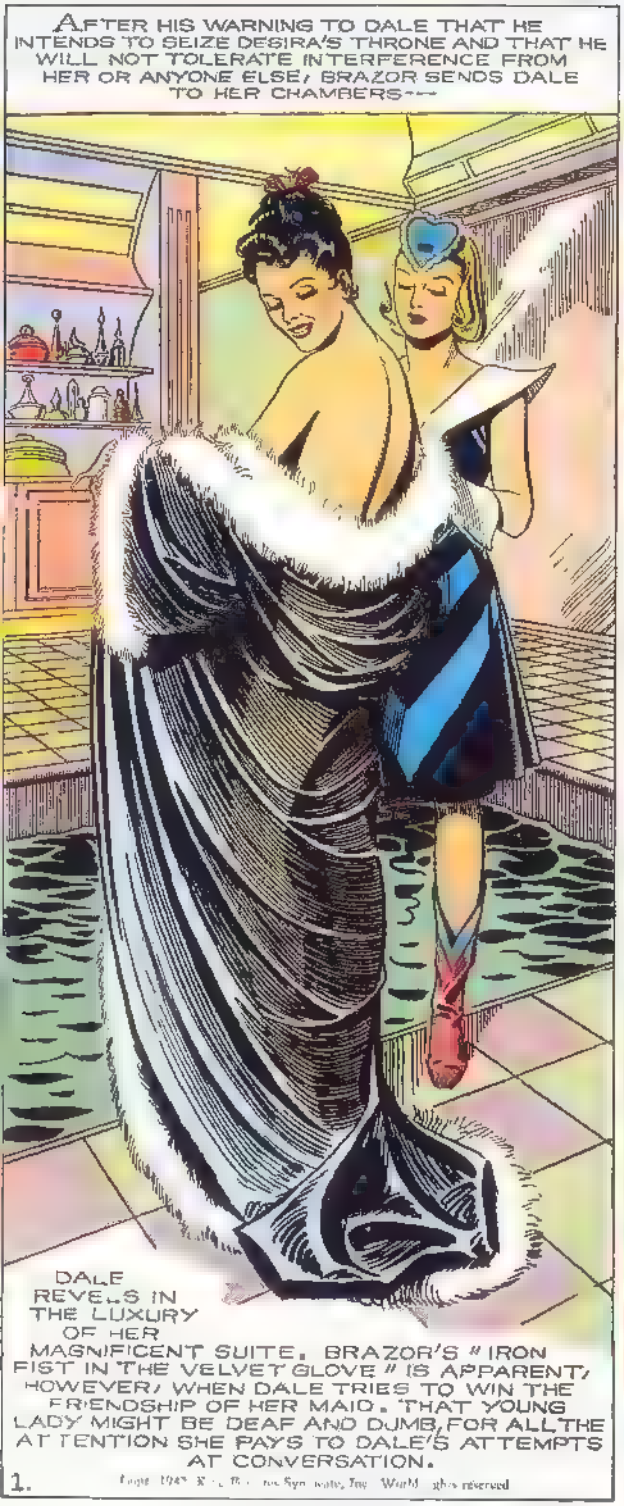
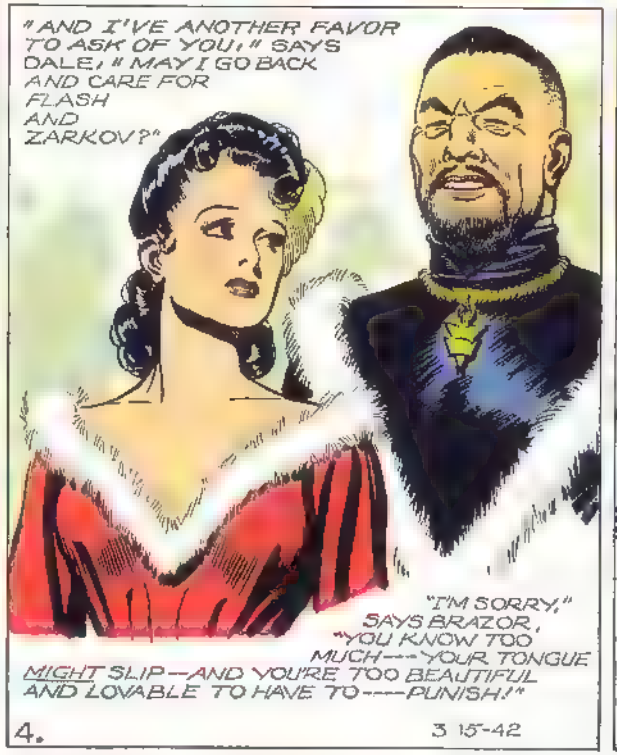
BRAZOR TAKES DALE INTO HIS STUDY: "YOU SEE, I KEPT MY PROMISE TO CURE FLASH AND ZARKOV. YOU'RE A SMART GIRL TO KEEP YOUR BARGAIN NOT TO TELL HOW I DRUGGED MY DEAR COUSIN. I'M GOING TO GET HER THRONE AND I'LL SMASH ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY. SEE THAT YOU DON'T!"
NEXT WEEK:
SECRETS ARE DANGEROUS





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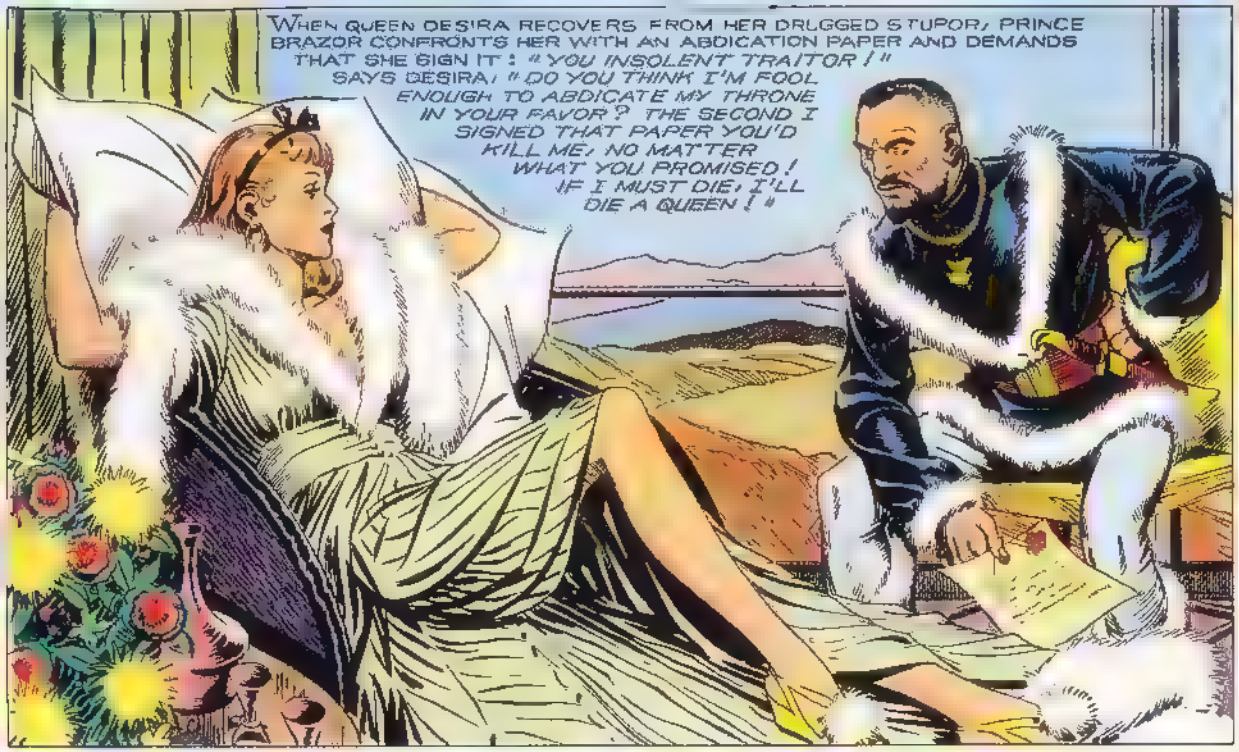
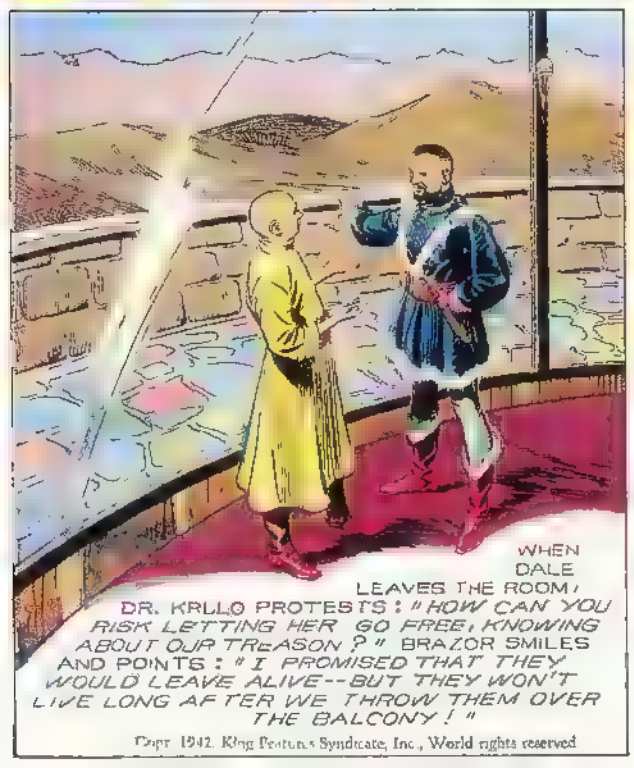

WHEN QUEEN DESIRA RECOVERS FROM HER DRUGGED STUPOR, PRINCE BRAZOR CONFRONTS HER WITH AN ABDICATION PAPER AND DEMANDS THAT SHE SIGN IT: "YOU INSOLENT TRAITOR!" SAYS DESIRA, "DO YOU THINK I'M FOOL ENOUGH TO ABDICATE MY THRONE IN YOUR FAVOR? THE SECOND I SIGNED THAT PAPER YOU'D KILL ME, NO MATTER WHAT YOU PROMISED! IF I MUST DIE, I'LL DIE A QUEEN!"

BRAZOR CALLS DALE TO HIS STUDY: "IF YOU'LL TELL DESIRA THAT YOU'LL SMUGGLE OUT A NOTE FROM HER ASKING FOR HELP, I PROMISE THAT I'LL LET YOU AND FLASH AND ZARKOV LEAVE MY FORTRESS ALIVE!" DALE AGREES, KNOWING THAT BRAZOR HAS KEPT HIS WORD THUS FAR.


WHEN DALE LEAVES THE ROOM, DR. KRILLO PROTESTS: "HOW CAN YOU RISK LETTING HER GO FREE, KNOWING ABOUT OUR TREASON?" BRAZOR SMILES AND POINTS: "I PROMISED THAT THEY WOULD LEAVE ALIVE--BUT THEY WON'T LIVE LONG AFTER WE THROW THEM OVER THE BALCONY!"
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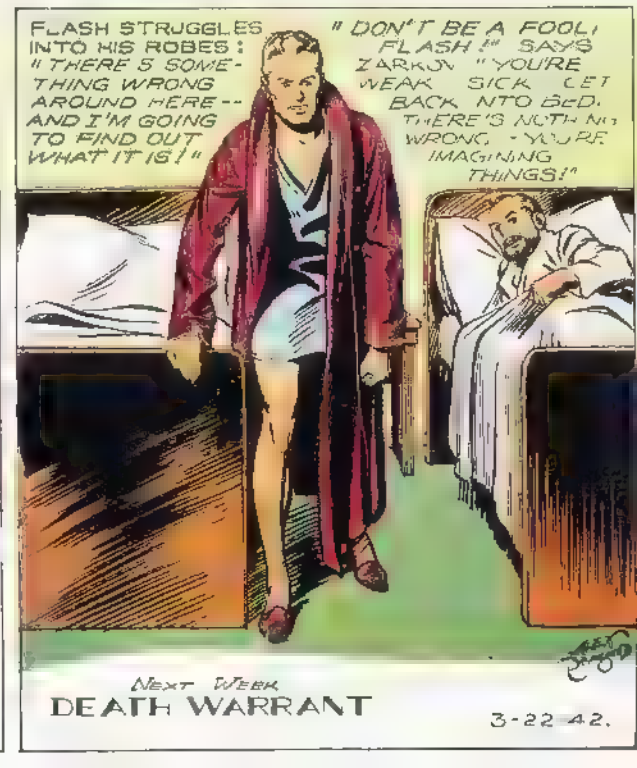
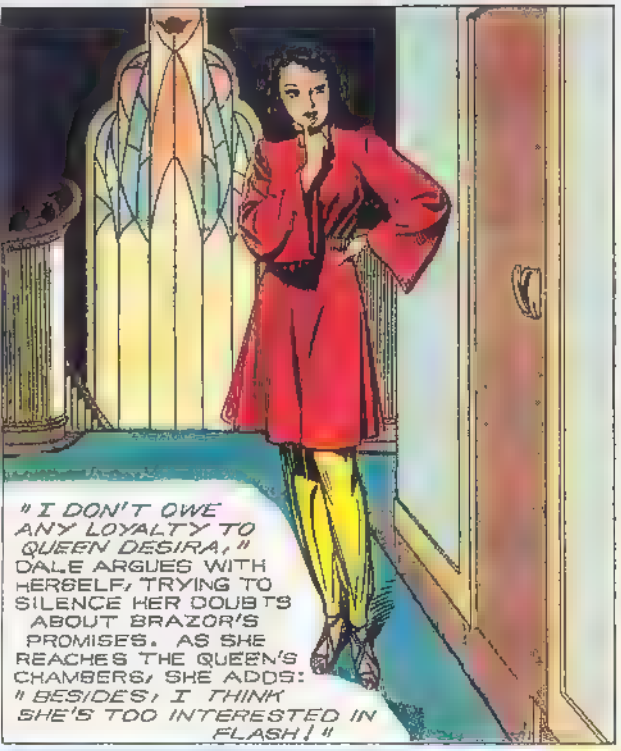
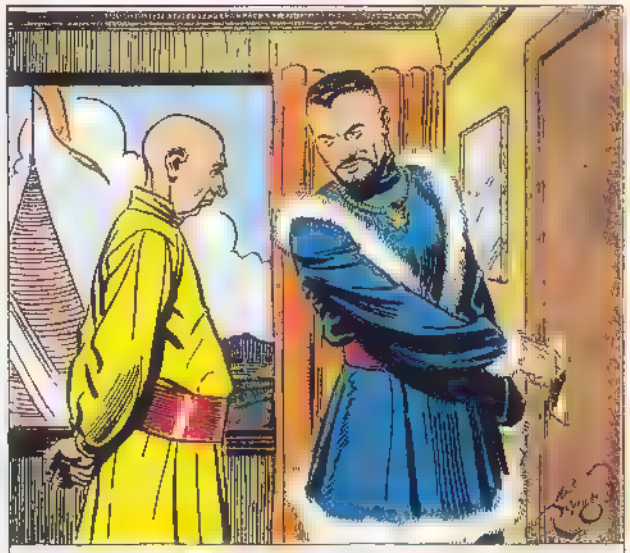
MEANWHILE, FLASH, FAST RECOVERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE TREE-DRAGON'S DEADLY POISON, HAS AN UNEASY FEELING THAT ALL IS NOT WELL---
"I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THINGS!" HE SAYS TO ZARKOV, "NO SIGN OF DALE OR DESIRA--OR EVEN BRAZOR--AND THAT FISH-EYED DOCTOR GIVES ME THE CREEPS!"


FLASH STRUGGLES INTO HIS ROBES: "THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG AROUND HERE--AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!"
"DON'T BE A FOOL, FLASH!" SAYS ZARKOV "YOU'RE WEAK SICK GET BACK INTO BED. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG--YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS!"
NEXT WEEK
DEATH WARRANT
3-22-42.



WONDERING WHY BRAZOR IS SO ANXIOUS TO HAVE DESIRA WRITE SUCH A DANGEROUS NOTE, DALE HURRIES TOWARD THE TRAITOR'S QUARTERS--BUT FLASH HEARS HER PASSING HIS SICK ROOM: "DALE! WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN IN TO SEE ME? WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?"


BRAZOR'S FELLOW-PLOTTER, DR. KRULO, IS ALSO CURIOUS: "WHY DO YOU WANT THAT MESSAGE?" BRAZOR SMILES COLDLY: "ONCE WE GET HER SIGNATURE, WE'LL FORGE IT ON THE ABDICATION MAKING ME KING--THEN WE'LL KILL HER AND DALE TOO! THAT GIRL'S TAKING TOO LONG--LET US GO FIND HER!"

NEXT WEEK: TRAITOR'S FURY

3-29-42.

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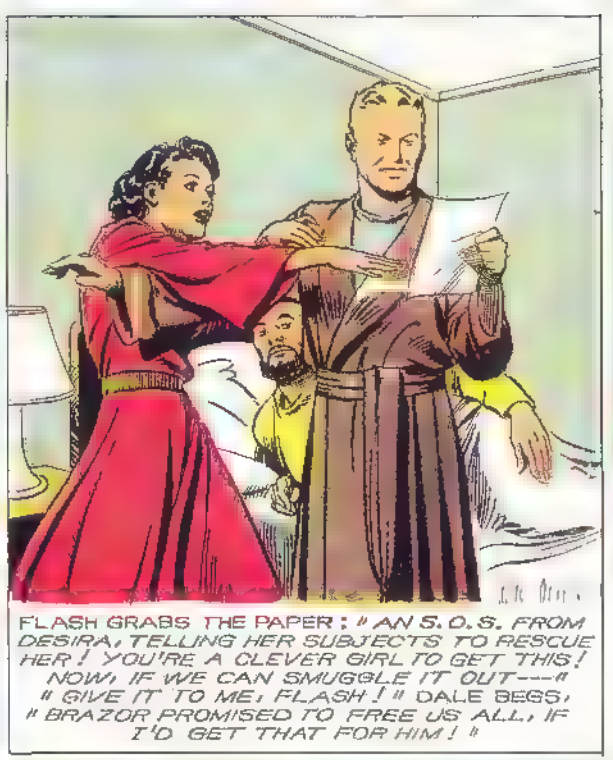
"DARLING, ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO BE OUT OF BED?" ASKS DALE. FLASH ANSWERS: "I'VE GOT TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO GET YOU AND ZARKOV AND DESIRA OUT OF THIS PLACE! I DON'T LIKE IT! WHAT'S THAT PAPER YOU'RE TRYING TO HIDE?"


FLASH GRABS THE PAPER: "AN S.O.S. FROM DESIRA, TELLING HER SUBJECTS TO RESCUE HER! YOU'RE A CLEVER GIRL TO GET THIS! NOW, IF WE CAN SMUGGLE IT OUT---" "GIVE IT TO ME, FLASH!" DALE BEGS, "BRAZOR PROMISED TO FREE US ALL, IF I'D GET THAT FOR HIM!"

"YOU SAY BRAZOR PUT YOU UP TO THIS? WHY, THIS PAPER WOULD HANG HIM! I'LL KEEP IT, DALE--WE CAN'T TRUST BRAZOR!" FLASH BACKS AWAY FROM THE STRUGGLING GIRL--SHE CRIES: "BUT I DID IT TO SAVE YOU! WE CAN TRUST BRAZOR--WE HAVE TO!"

"YOU'RE RIGHT TO TRUST ME, LITTLE ONE," COMES THE TRAITOR'S COLD, SMOOTH VOICE FROM THE DOORWAY, "DOES FLASH DOUBT ME?" "TELL HIM YOU HAVEN'T SEEN DESIRA YET--IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!" MUTTERS FLASH FROM THE CORNER OF HIS MOUTH --

"BRAZOR, WILL YOU KEEP YOUR PROMISE IF I GET THAT LETTER FROM DESIRA?" DALE ASKS. AND BRAZOR SWEARS: "ON MY ROYAL WORD, YOU AND FLASH AND ZARKOV WILL LEAVE MY FORTRESS ALIVE!" DALE, NOT KNOWING THAT HE MEANS HE WILL THROW THEM OFF THE MOUNTAIN CLIFF, SAYS: "NOW, FLASH, PLEASE GIVE HIM DESIRA'S NOTE!"

"DALE IS JUST AFRAID TO TELL YOU SHE HASN'T SEEN DESIRA YET," SAYS FLASH, "I HAVE NO NOTE--YOU CAN SEARCH ME" BUT THE TRAITOR, BALKED IN HIS SCHEME TO SEIZE THE THRONE, LOSES HIS IRON CALM: "YOU LIE!" HE SNARLS, "GIVE ME THAT NOTE--OR I SHOOT!"
· NEXT WEEK ·
DEADLY HIDE AND SEEK—
4-5 42
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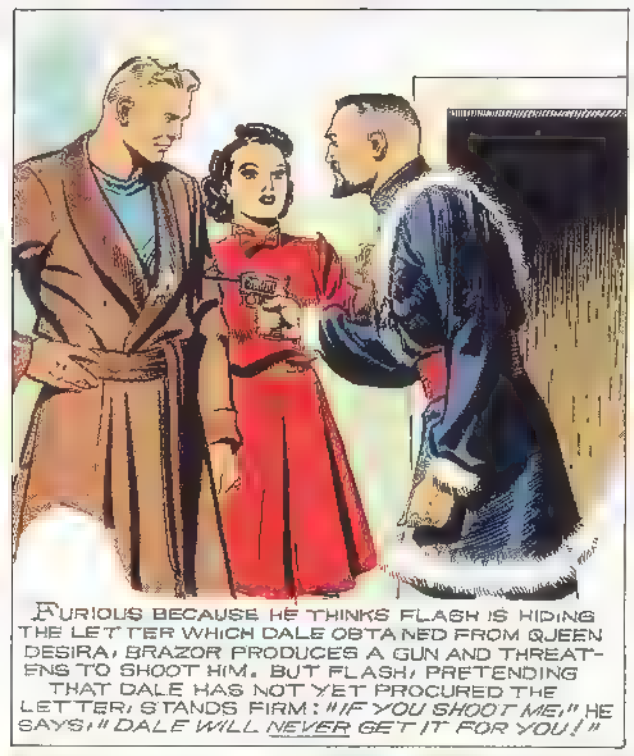
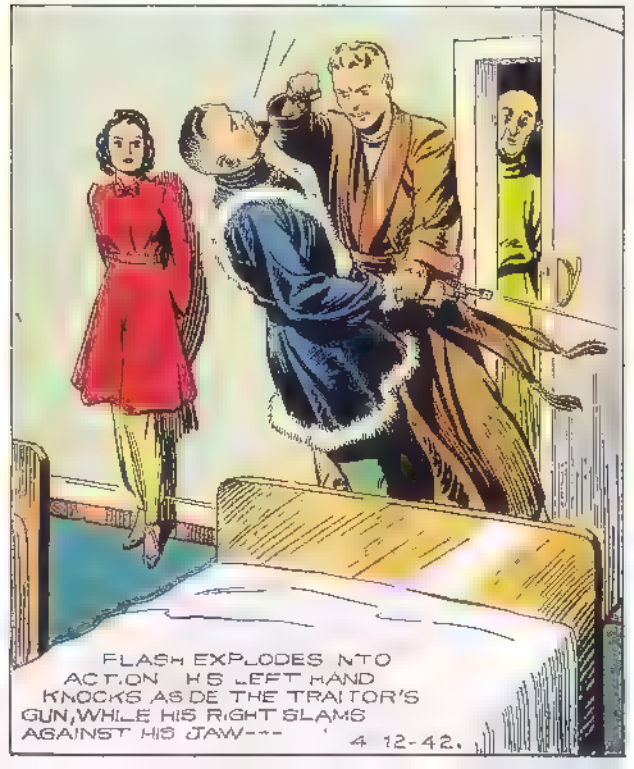


FURIOUS BECAUSE HE THINKS FLASH IS HIDING THE LETTER WHICH DALE OBTAINED FROM QUEEN DESIRA, BRAZOR PRODUCES A GUN AND THREATENS TO SHOOT HIM. BUT FLASH, PRETENDING THAT DALE HAS NOT YET PROCURED THE LETTER, STANDS FIRM: "IF YOU SHOOT ME," HE SAYS, "DALE WILL NEVER GET IT FOR YOU!"

"I'LL BRAZOR YOU'LL GET THE QUEEN TO WRITE THAT MESSAGE FOR HIM," FLASH BLUFFS. BUT DALE, BELIEVING FLASH'S PROTECTING DESIRA AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR SAFETY, BLURTS OUT THE TRUTH: "BUT I GOT THE LETTER AND GAVE IT TO YOU JUST A MINUTE AGO. UH, PLEASE, FLASH, WHERE DID YOU HIDE IT?"

"I BELIEVE THE GIRL," RASPS BRAZOR, "SHE'S TOO SCARED TO LIE! HAND IT OVER BEFORE I COUNT THREE, OR YOU DIE! ONE---TWO---"



FLASH EXPLODES INTO ACTION. HIS LEFT HAND KNOCKS ASIDE THE TRAITOR'S GUN, WHILE HIS RIGHT SLAMS AGAINST HIS JAW---

4-12-42.

BUT IN THE DOORWAY, BRAZOR'S FELLOW-TRAITOR, DR. KRULO, JUST APPEARING ON THE SCENE, DRAWS HIS RAY-GUN AND BRINGS ITS BUTT CRASHING DOWN ON FLASH'S HEAD!

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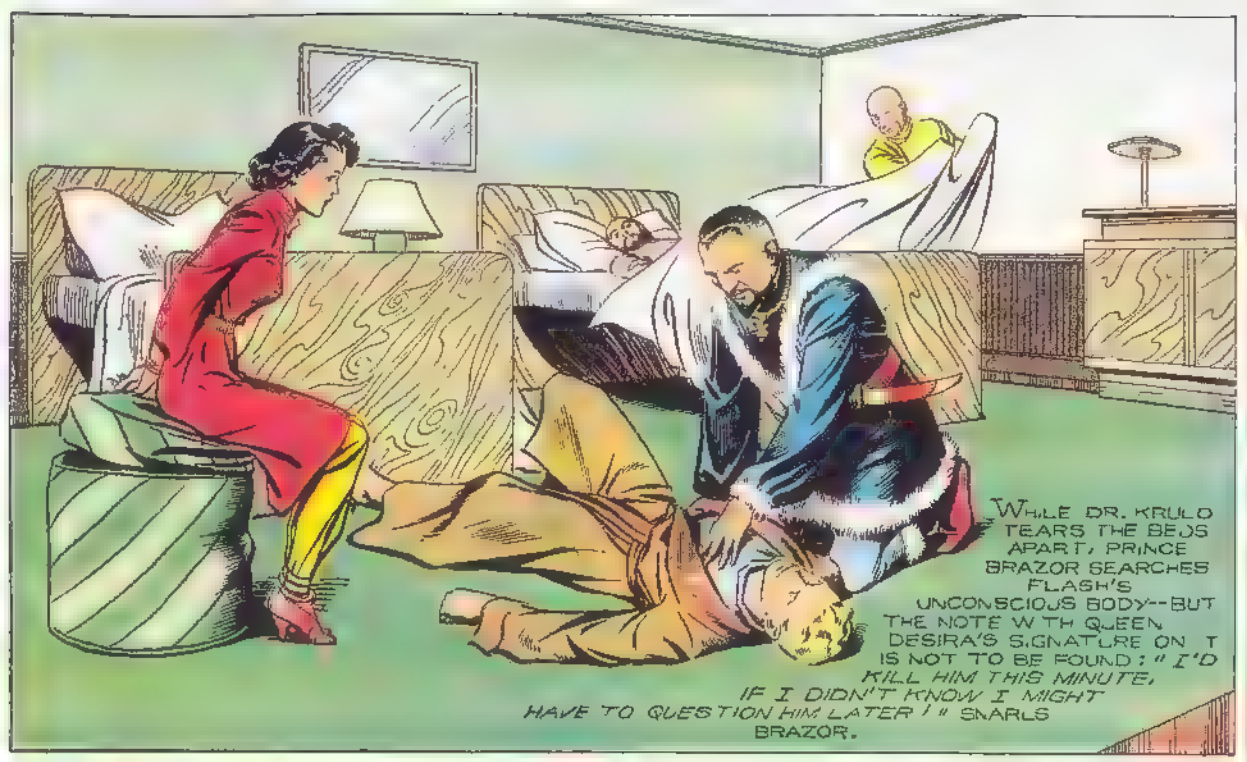
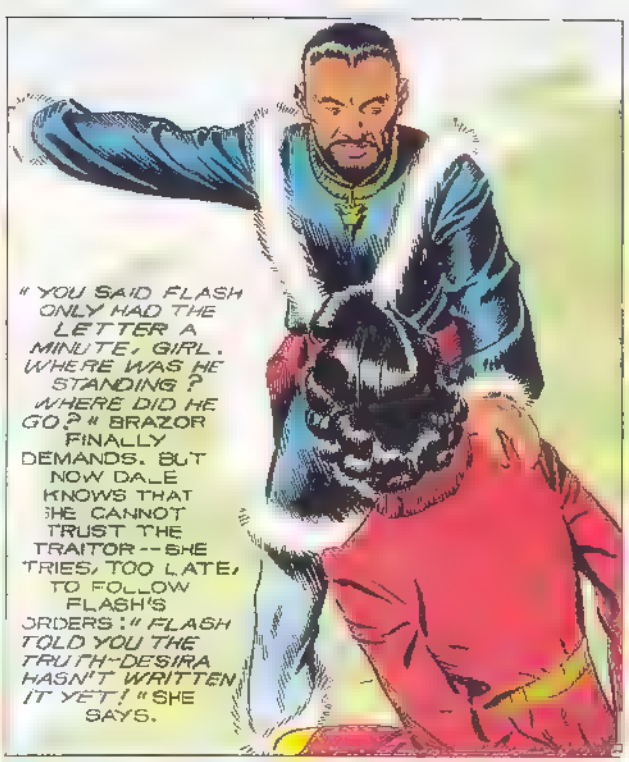
BERSERK OVER FLASH'S FATE, DALE HURLS HERSELF AT DR. KRULO, KICKING, BITING, SCRATCHING. DAZED, BRAZOR STRUGGLES TO HIS FEET: "TIE UP THAT LITTLE DEVIL," HE SNARLS, "THEN HELP ME SEARCH THIS ROOM!" AND--THROUGH ALL THIS ACTION--DR. ZARKOV REMAINS PERFECTLY STILL, APPARENTLY UNCONSCIOUS!

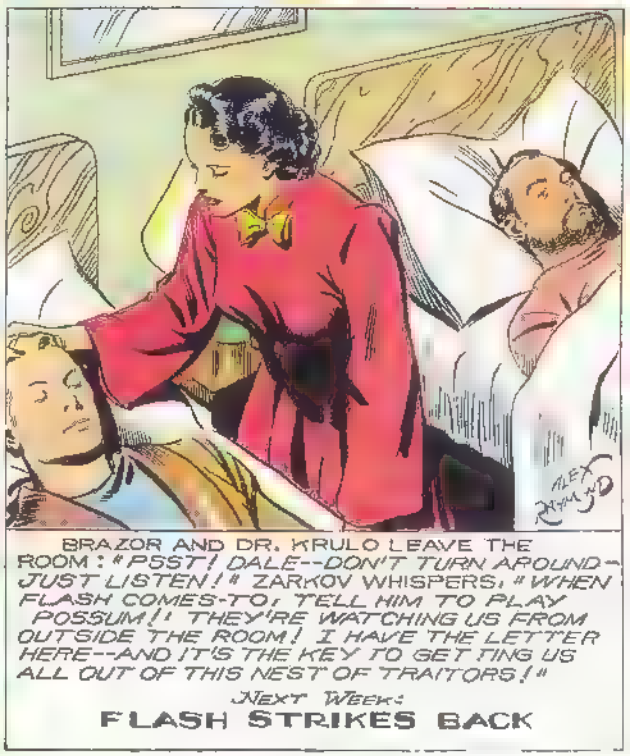
NEXT WEEK: **HIDDEN WEAPON**


WHILE DR. KRULO TEARS THE BEDS APART, PRINCE BRAZOR SEARCHES FLASH'S UNCONSCIOUS BODY--BUT THE NOTE WITH QUEEN DESIRA'S SIGNATURE ON IT IS NOT TO BE FOUND: "I'D KILL HIM THIS MINUTE, IF I DIDN'T KNOW I MIGHT HAVE TO QUESTION HIM LATER!" SNARLS BRAZOR.

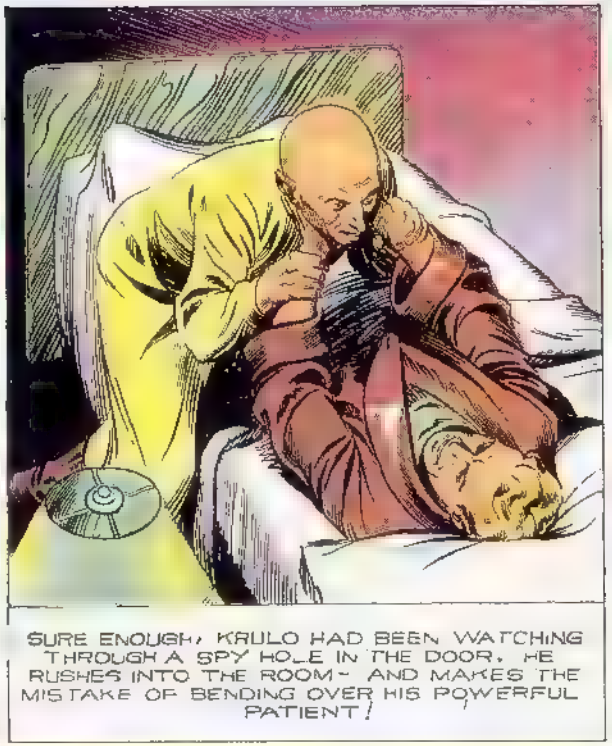

"YOU SAID FLASH ONLY HAD THE LETTER A MINUTE, GIRL. WHERE WAS HE STANDING? WHERE DID HE GO?" BRAZOR FINALLY DEMANDS. BUT NOW DALE KNOWS THAT SHE CANNOT TRUST THE TRAITOR--SHE TRIES, TOO LATE, TO FOLLOW FLASH'S ORDERS: "FLASH TOLD YOU THE TRUTH--DESIRA HASN'T WRITTEN IT YET!" SHE SAYS.

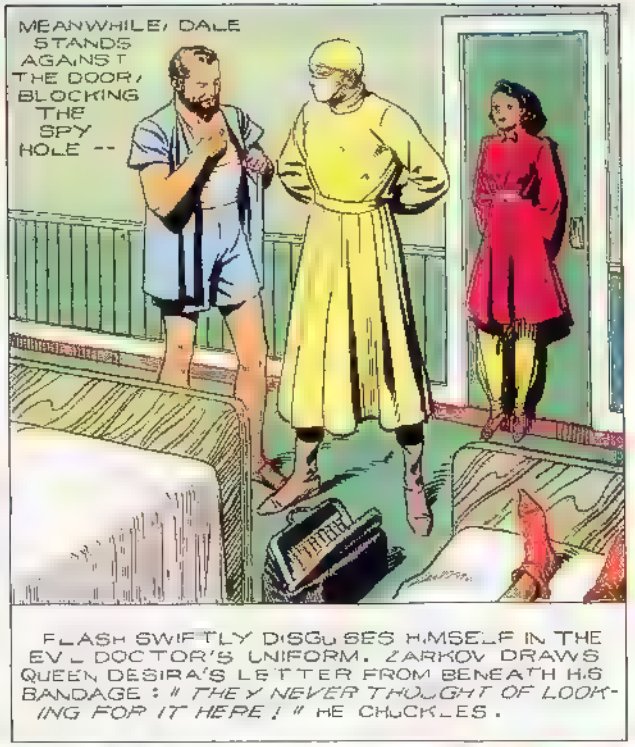
DR. KRULO TAKES BRAZOR ASIDE AND WHISPERS SOMETHING TO HIM. BRAZOR SMILES CRAFTILY---

"YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER, GIRL," SAYS BRAZOR, PRETENDING TO BELIEVE DALE. HE REMOVES HER BONDS, SAYING: "TAKE CARE OF YOUR TWO FRIENDS--THEN GO BACK TO DESIRA AND GET THAT LETTER."
4-19-42


BRAZOR AND DR. KRULO LEAVE THE ROOM: "PSST! DALE--DON'T TURN AROUND--JUST LISTEN!" ZARKOV WHISPERS, "WHEN FLASH COMES-TO, TELL HIM TO PLAY POSSUM!' THEY'RE WATCHING US FROM OUTSIDE THE ROOM! I HAVE THE LETTER HERE--AND IT'S THE KEY TO GETTING US ALL OUT OF THIS NEST OF TRAITORS!"
NEXT WEEK:
FLASH STRIKES BACK

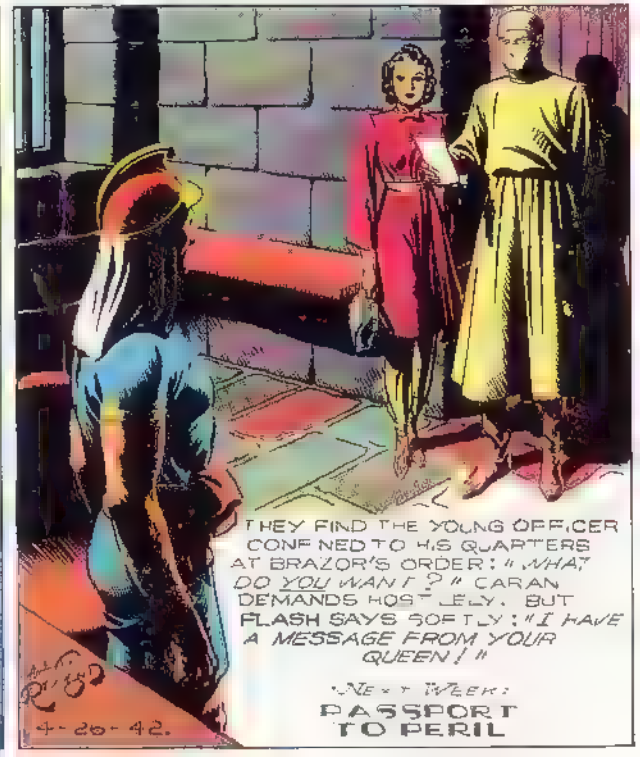
FLASH AND ZARKOV AGREE ON A DARING PLAN. DALE STARTS IT BY SCREAMING: "DOCTOR KRULO! HELP! FLASH IS DYING!"

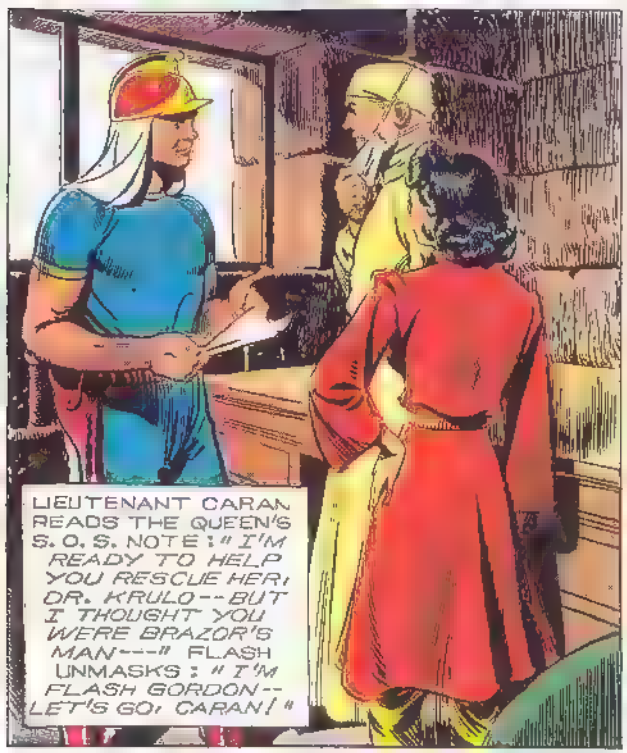

SURE ENOUGH, KRULO HAD BEEN WATCHING THROUGH A SPY HOLE IN THE DOOR. HE RUSHES INTO THE ROOM - AND MAKES THE MISTAKE OF BENDING OVER HIS POWERFUL PATIENT!

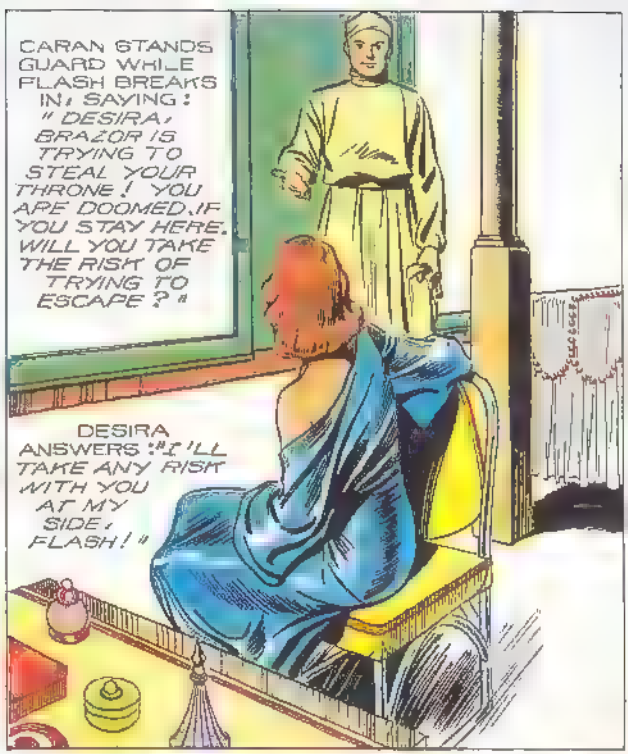

MEANWHILE, DALE STANDS AGAINST THE DOOR, BLOCKING THE SPY HOLE --
FLASH SWIFTLY DISGUSES HIMSELF IN THE EVIL DOCTOR'S UNIFORM. ZARKOV DRAWS QUEEN DESIRA'S LETTER FROM BENEATH HIS BANDAGE: "THEY NEVER THOUGHT OF LOOKING FOR IT HERE!" HE CHUCKLES.

FLASH EXPECTS TO FIND BRAZOR OUTSIDE THE DOOR BUT HE'S RELIEVED TO SEE ONLY A SOLITARY SENTRY. DALE SAYS LOUDLY: "YOU'RE SURE FLASH WILL BE ALRIGHT, DOCTOR?" FLASH JUST NODS AS HE LOCKS THE DOOR

"NOW TO FIND LIEUTENANT CARAN," MUTTERS FLASH, "I HOPE HE'S AS DEVOTED TO HIS QUEEN AS YOU SAY HE IS! HE'S THE ONE MAN WHO MIGHT HELP US OUT OF THIS DEN OF TRAITORS!"


THEY FIND THE YOUNG OFFICER CONFINED TO HIS QUARTERS AT BRAZOR'S ORDER: "WHAT DO YOU WANT?" CARAN DEMANDS HOSTILELY. BUT FLASH SAYS SOFTLY: "I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM YOUR QUEEN!"
4-26-42.
NEXT WEEK: PASSPORT TO PERIL





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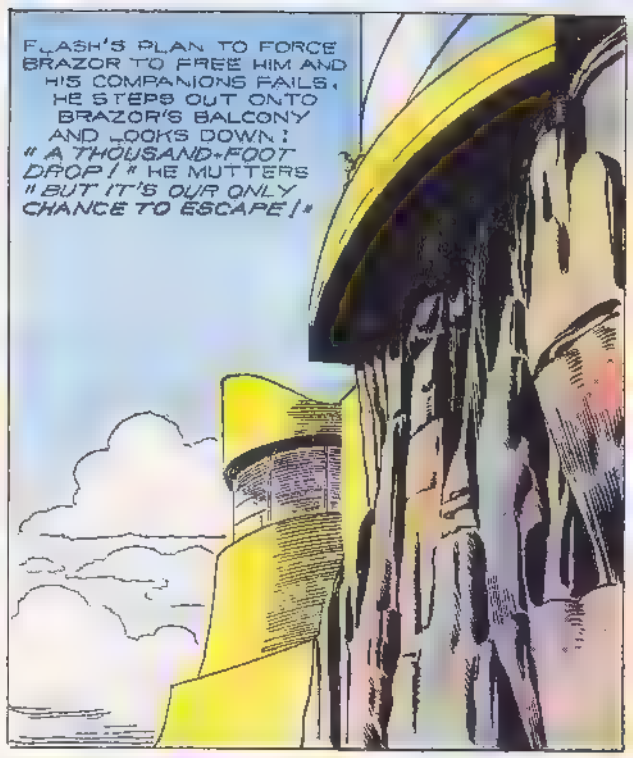

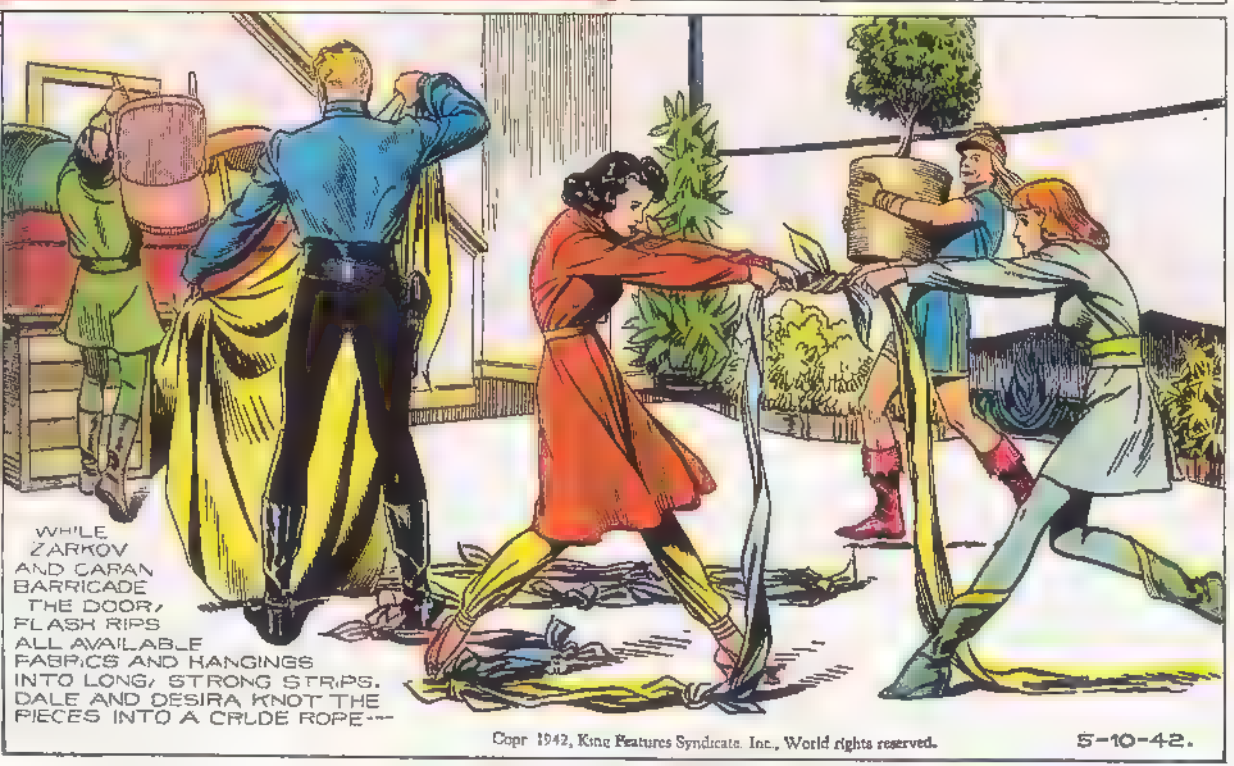

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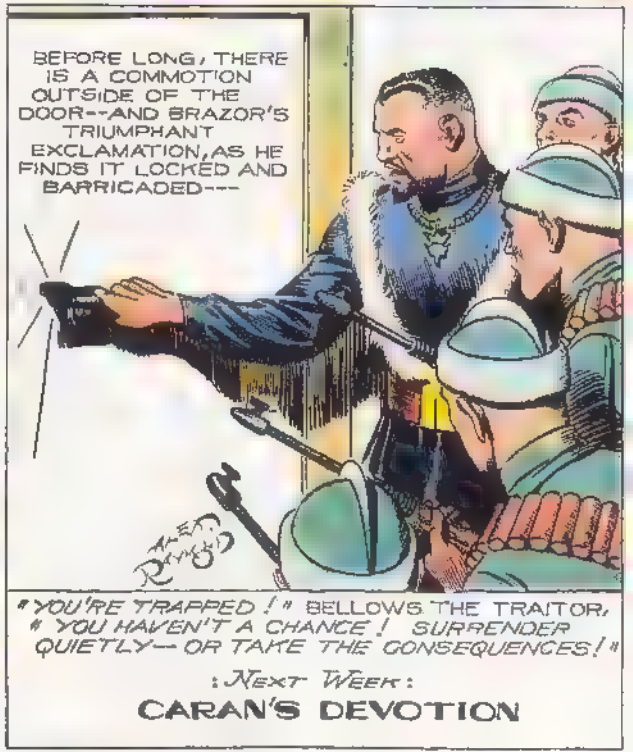
5-10-42.

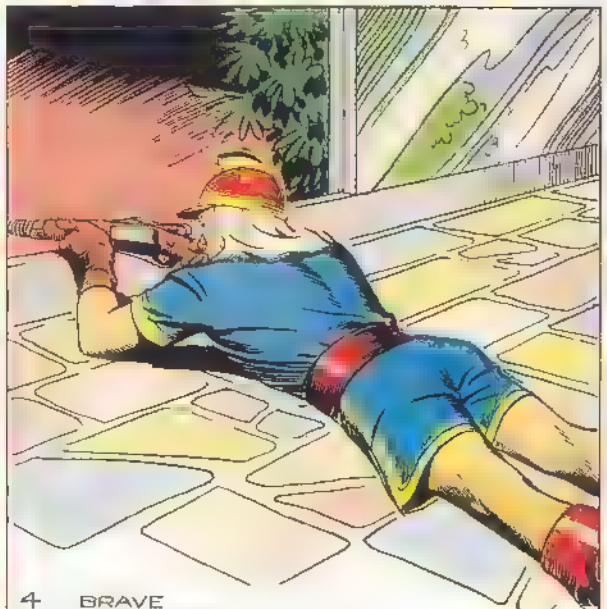


:NEXT WEEK:

CARAN'S DEVOTION

1. TRAPPED IN BRAZOR'S QUARTERS, FLASH RIPS DRAPERIES AND FABRICS INTO STRIPS AND FASHIONS THEM INTO A CRUDE LIFE-LINE, BUT CARAN REFUSES TO ACCOMPANY FLASH AND HIS FRIENDS IN THEIR DARING EFFORT TO ESCAPE--

3. RECEIVING NO REPLY TO HIS COMMAND TO SURRENDER, BRAZOR BARKS AN ORDER AND HE AND HIS MEN HURL THEMSELVES AT THE BARRED DOOR. UNDER THE FURY OF THEIR ASSAULT, IT GIVES WAY--



4 BRAVE LIEUTENANT CARAN STANDS BETWEEN THE TRAITOROUS PRINCE AND THE ESCAPING PRISONERS--BUT HE IS ONLY ONE AGAINST MANY!

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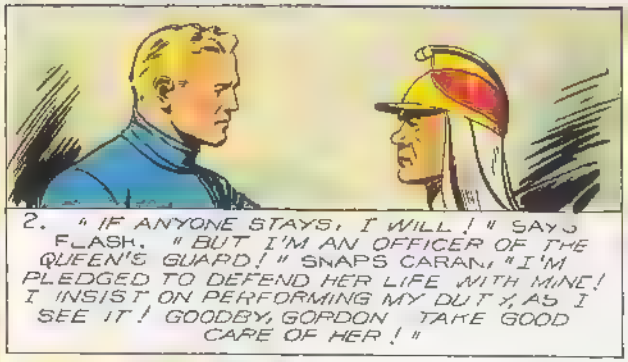
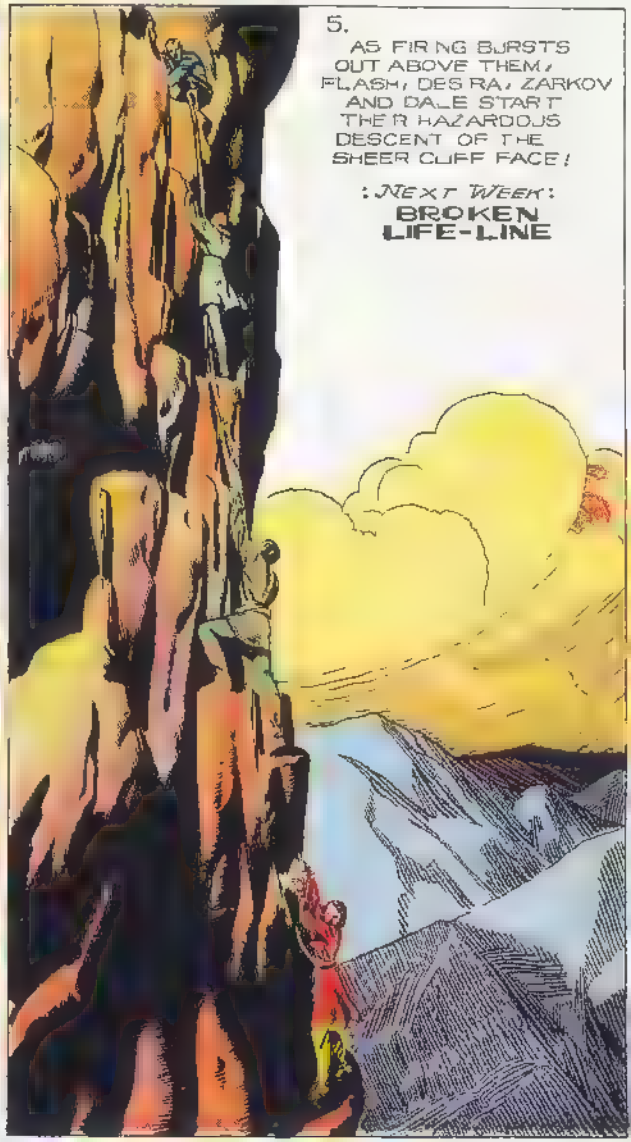
5-17-42.



2. "IF ANYONE STAYS, I WILL!" SAYS FLASH. "BUT I'M AN OFFICER OF THE QUEEN'S GUARD!" SNAPS CARAN, "I'M PLEDGED TO DEFEND HER LIFE WITH MINE! I INSIST ON PERFORMING MY DUTY, AS I SEE IT! GOODBY, GORDON. TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER!"



5. AS FIRING BURSTS OUT ABOVE THEM, FLASH, DESRA, ZARKOV AND DALE START THEIR HAZARDOUS DESCENT OF THE SHEER CLIFF FACE!

:NEXT WEEK:
BROKEN LIFE-LINE

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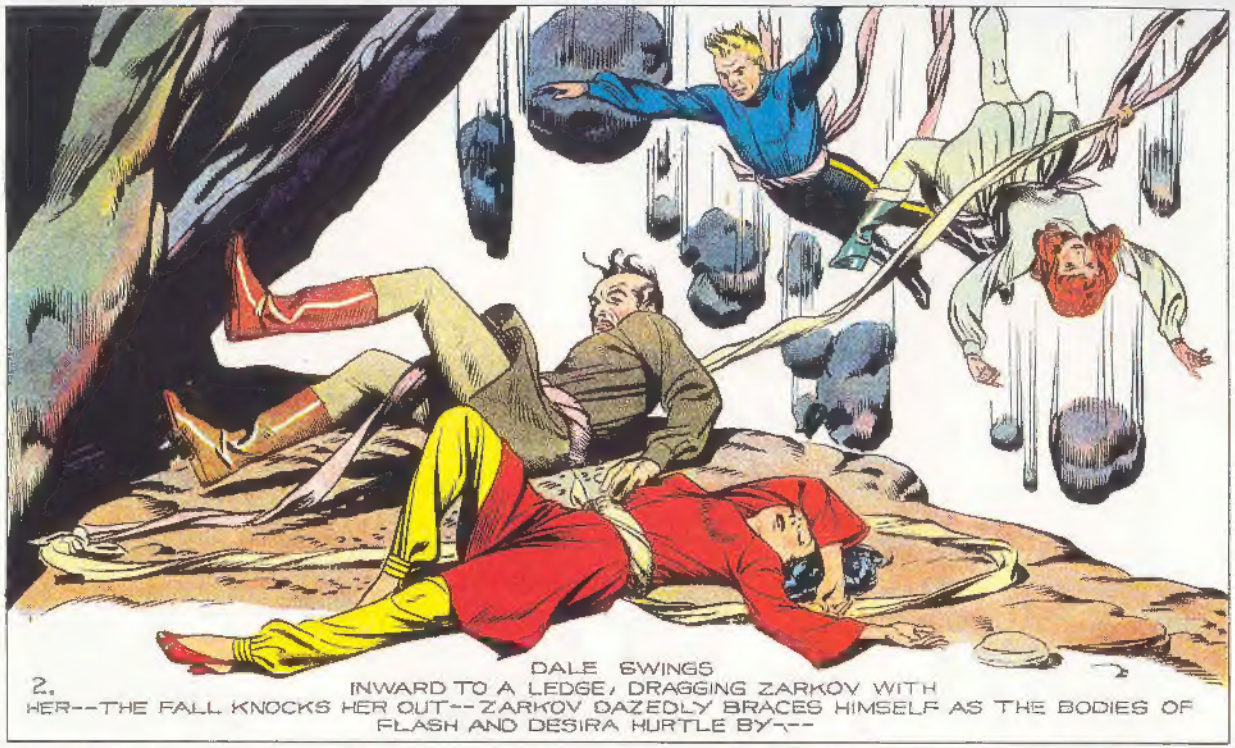

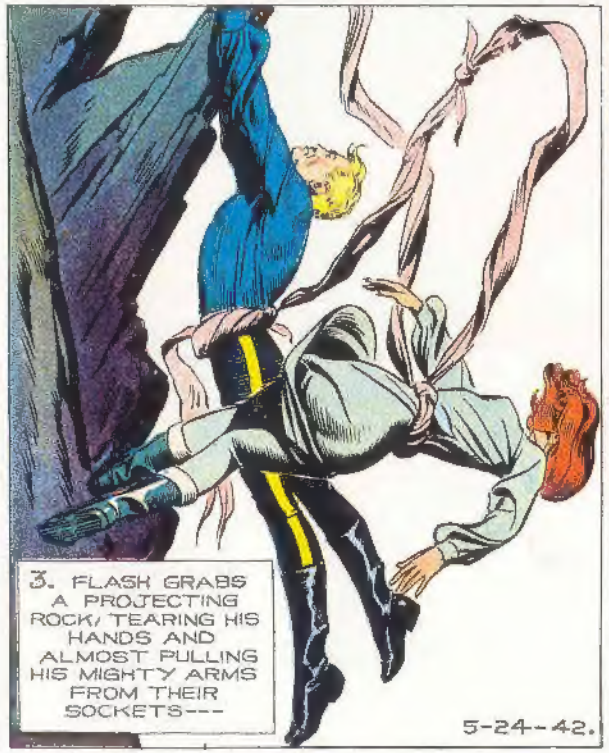

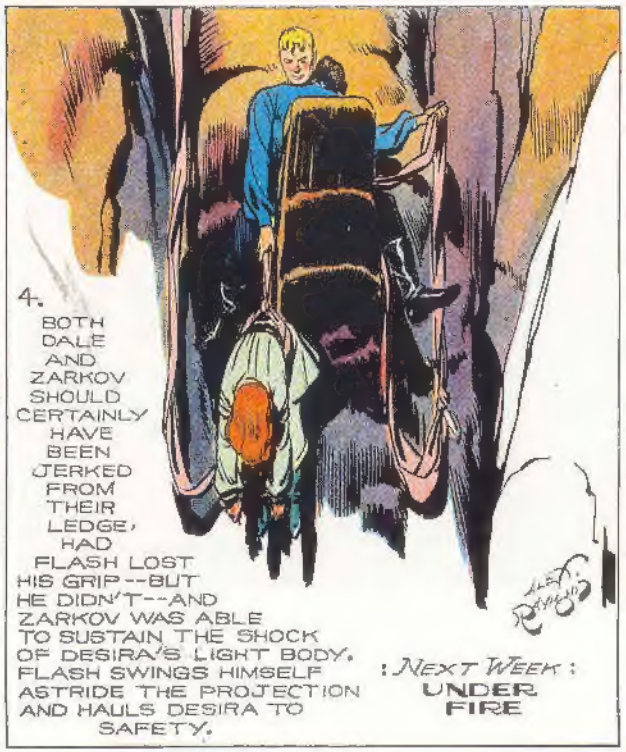

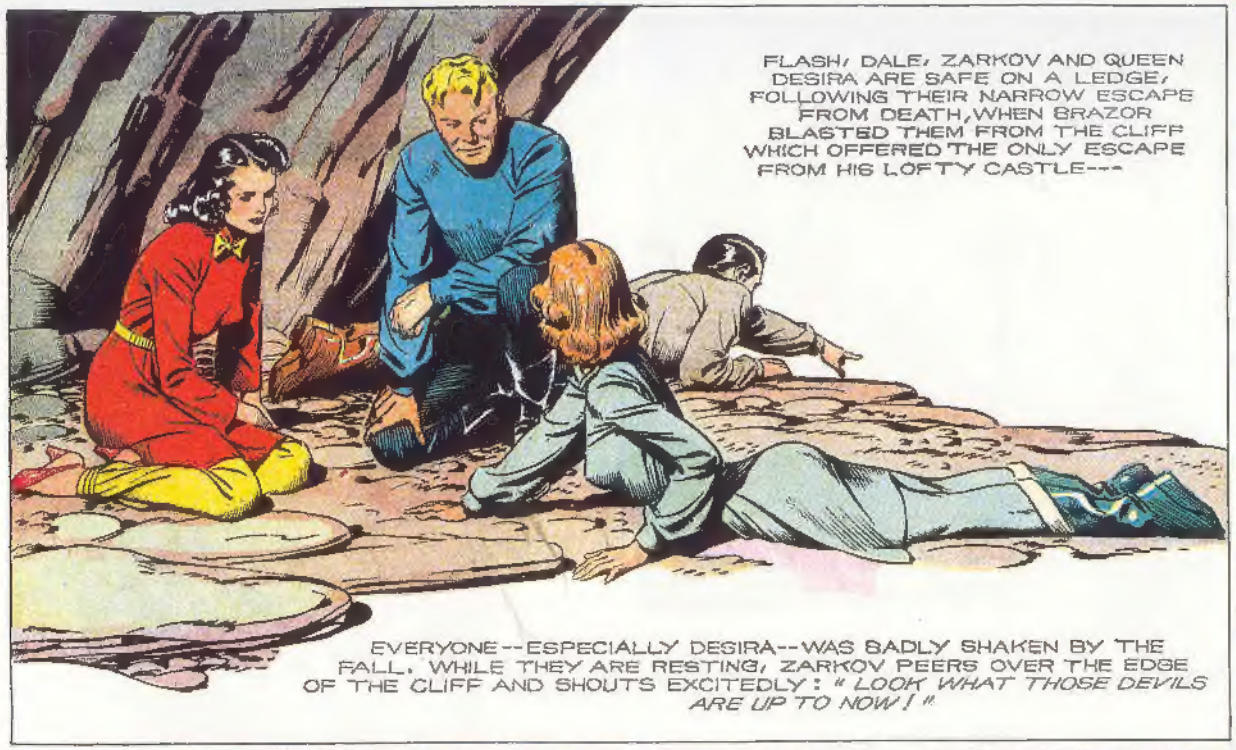

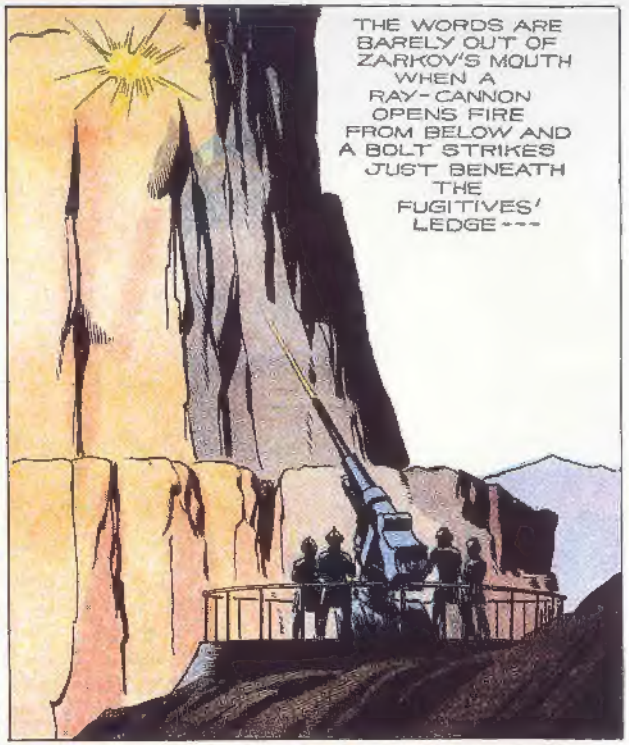

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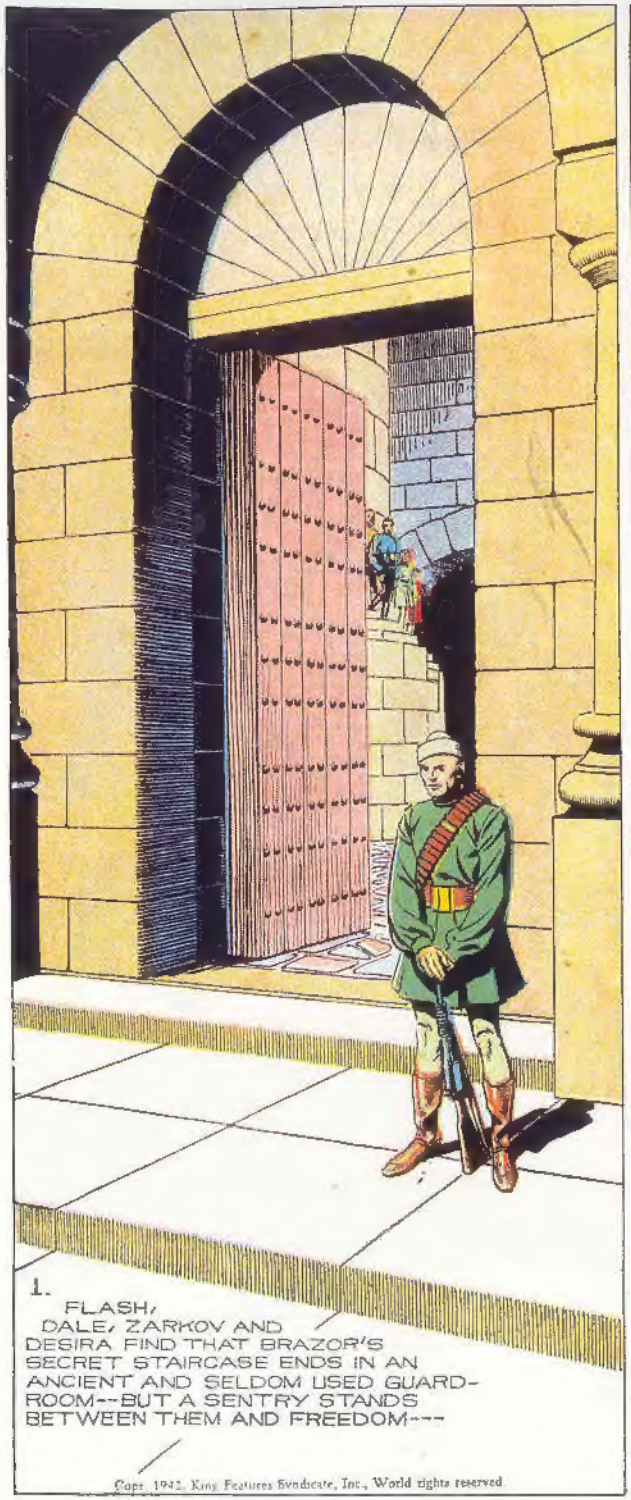
1.
FLASH, DALE, ZARKOV AND DESIRA FIND THAT BRAZOR'S SECRET STAIRCASE ENDS IN AN ANCIENT AND SELDOM USED GUARD-ROOM--BUT A SENTRY STANDS BETWEEN THEM AND FREEDOM---
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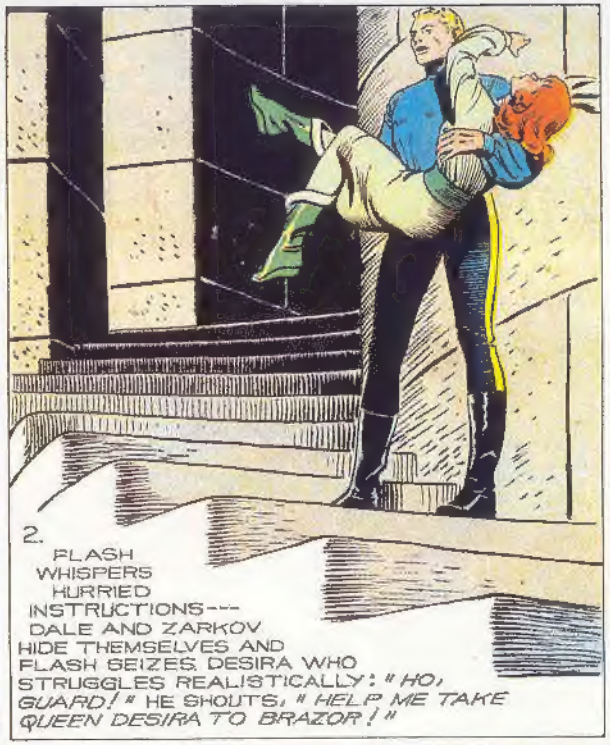
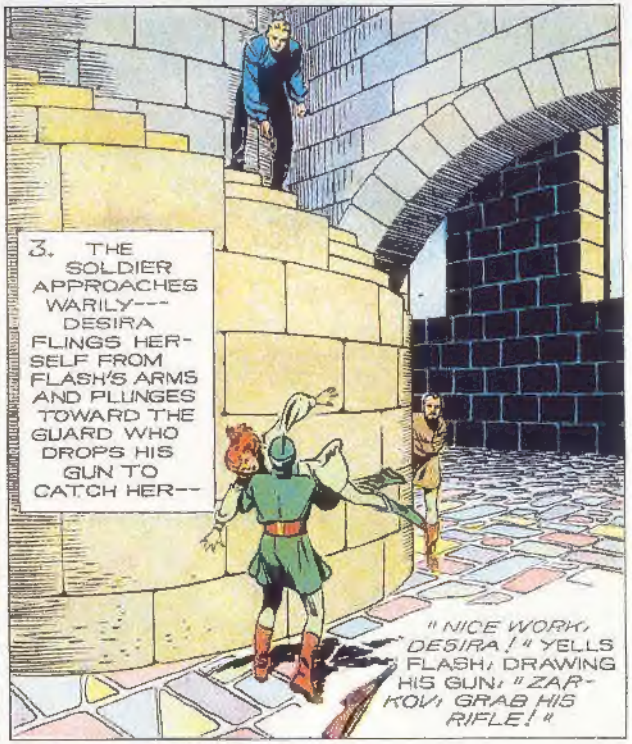

2.
FLASH WHISPERS HURRIED INSTRUCTIONS--- DALE AND ZARKOV HIDE THEMSELVES AND FLASH SEIZES DESIRA WHO STRUGGLES REALISTICALLY: "HO, GUARD!" HE SHOUTS, "HELP ME TAKE QUEEN DESIRA TO BRAZOR!"


3. THE SOLDIER APPROACHES WARILY--- DESIRA FLINGS HERSELF FROM FLASH'S ARMS AND PLUNGES TOWARD THE GUARD WHO DROPS HIS GUN TO CATCH HER--
"NICE WORK, DESIRA!" YELLS FLASH, DRAWING HIS GUN; "ZARKOV, GRAB HIS RIFLE!"

4.
LEAVING THE GUARD BOUND AND GAGGED WITH PORTIONS OF FLASH'S SHIRT, THE FUGITIVES MAKE A DASH FOR LIBERTY: "THAT LOW BUILDING," PANTS ZARKOV, "IT LOOKS LIKE A STABLE!"
6-14-42.

SURE ENOUGH, IT IS A STABLE, CONTAINING TWO FIERCE, BUT SURE-FOOTED GRYPHS. FLASH AND ZARKOV QUICKLY SADDLE THEM AND, RIDING DOUBLE, THE FOUR FRIENDS CLATTER FORTH ONTO THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL!
5.
: NEXT WEEK :
HUNTED